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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Decision by Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey to address the U. S. National Student Association's National Student Congress and the possibility of an address by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

1. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. Background.

a. The U. S. National Student Association (USNSA), a confederation of over 350 university and college student governments, engages in an extensive international program which is in large part financed by CIA.

b. USNSA was organized in the immediate post-war years by students who believed that the American student community should be represented in the international youth and student organizations then coming into being. Since 1952 USNSA has been a prime moving force in the International Student Conference, an anti-communist organization organized to counteract the communist-dominated International Union of Students.

B [REDACTED] the international program of USNSA has been [REDACTED] financed by CIA since 1952. [REDACTED] has enabled USNSA to engage in a variety of politically productive programs [REDACTED]

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d. Establishing its viability as an organization quite apart from Agency support of its international programming, USNSA has become an influential voice in American higher education circles. Congress, and governmental agencies on matters of student interest. This growth of influence domestically has been achieved by USNSA's unique role as the only non-partisan, representative vehicle available to American students and by the efforts USNSA has made through the years to inject important educational content into the extra-curricular activities available on its member campuses.

3. Eighteenth National Student Congress.

a. The policy and programs of USNSA, on both domestic and international questions, are established by the National Student Congress which meets every summer during the latter part of August. Each member school is entitled to send representatives to this meeting; the exact number of delegates being determined by the size of a given institution's student body. In recent years over one-thousand student leaders have attended the Congress, and its related conferences.

b. The next National Student Congress of USNSA will be held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, from 22 August to 2 September. Because of the democratic structure of these proceedings and of USNSA itself, CIA exercises no direct control over the Congress's deliberations and decisions. The student leaders who will participate in this event are representative of the American student community and will, therefore, include a limited number of people belonging politically to the extremes of American political life. Delegates belonging to the political left will undoubtedly raise United States policy in Vietnam as an issue and assert that USNSA should adopt a resolution highly critical of American policy there. The principal opposition to United States policy in Vietnam has, of course, come from the campus and those critical of the President's policy will definitely express themselves at the Congress. This question will not occupy the main attention of the Congress delegates; but because of the recent occurrence of teach-ins and other manifestations of dissent the issue may be emotionally charged and could be politically delicate.

c. As a result of the attention United States policy in Vietnam will receive at the USNSA Congress, both the White House and the Department of State are evincing more than their traditional interest in having leading government officials address the meeting. In particular, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey has already accepted an invitation to address the Congress. If current plans are not changed, the Vice President will speak to the Congress on 23 August.

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4. We believe that either the President or Vice President would receive a courteous response from the USNSA delegates. However, it is realistic to expect that those disagreeing with United States policy in Vietnam will address themselves to this question if the President or Vice President comments on the Vietnam situation. On balance, we feel that an address by the President or Vice President presents an unusual opportunity to reach a critical audience of opinion-makers in most of the major university centers in the country.

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